Statement II

INDIA'S EXPORTS TO PRINCIPAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DURING APRIL-JANUARY, 1992-93

Country	Exports in Rs. Crores	Exports in US $ million	Country	Exports in Rs. Crores	Exports in US $ million
Afganistan	86.65	30.30	Mauritius	144.04	50.37
Algeria	32.68	11.43	Morocco	37.90	13.25
Argentina	65.24	22.81	Nepal	176.44	61.70
Bangladesh	800.82	280.05	Nigeria	347.55	121.54
Brazil	34.52	12.07	Oman	176.55	61.74
China P.R.	256.19	89.59	Pakistan	118.57	41.46
Egypt	254.80	89.10	Philippines	141.75	49.57
Indonesia	291.65	101.99	Saudi Arabia	954.87	333.92
Iran	273.32	95.58	Singapore	1227.98	429.43
Kuwait	269.05	94.09	Srilanka	525.60	183.80
Malaysia	460.42	161.01	Tanzania	164.81	57.63

Statement on Dunkal Proposals

705. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he has stated that the Dunkal proposals are to benefit farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers are agitating on the Dunkal proposals; and

(c) what is the stage of Dunkal proposals as far as its implementation on India is concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The reduction of export and other subsidies on agricultural items by the developed countries will create opportunities for Indian exports of such items.

A rally was organised on 3 March 1993 jointly by the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU|IND-M.S. Tikait) U.P. the BKU (Lokhowal), Punjab and the Karnataka Farmers Association, to protest against the Dunkal proposals.

The Uruguay Round negotiations have not yet concluded. The question of implementation of the Dunkal proposals, therefore, does not arise.

Plight of Tobacco Growers in Guntur

706. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Hindu dated 10th April, 1993 stating that the President of the Guntur Tobacco Growers and Curers Cooperative Societies commented that the Tobacco growers had been sadly neglected despite the fact that Tobacco Board helped the Nation to earn about Rs. 450 crores in foreign exchange and net about Rs. 2,000 crores as excise revenue per annum;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and steps proposed by Government to redress their grievances;

(c) whether it is a fact that the President of Guntur Tobacco Growers and curers Cooperative Societies is going to meet the Prime Minister to seek his assistance for a remunerative price for tobacco growers and to provide funds to Government agencies to purchase tobacco on a 'no profit no loss' basis; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not true that tobacco growers are neglected by the Government. By streamlining the auction system under the Tobacco Board, the Government have ensured that the tobacco growers get a remunerative price for their produce as is evident from the following table :

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka (Rs. per kg.)
1989	16.59	19.53
1990	14.69	26.44
1991	33.00	42.13
1992	27.63	25.67

(c) The delegation submitted that the prices for the FCV tobacco at the auctions currently on in Andhra Pradesh are low as compared to last year and they urged the Government to take urgent measures to help stabilise the market.

(d) The following steps have been taken :—

(i) An emergency meeting of the Tobacco Board was held on April 15, 1993 to take stocks of the situation and consider ways to tackle it.

(ii) The balance unutilised technical credit of US $ 15 million has been agreed to be release to enable Russia to import a part of the contracted quantity.

(iii) The Tobacco Board has stepped up its efforts to export tobacco and tobacco products. The Chairman. Tobacco Board took a 9-member exporters' delegation to Russia and other CIS countries.

(iv) The Commerce Ministry had a meeting with the manufacturers and exporters of tobacco and cigarettes and advised them to step up their purchases at the auction platforms.

Operation of Inland Containers and Frieght Station

707. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow the private sector to operate inland container depots and container freight stations;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the extent to which this would boost exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.